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## Book Review

*The Western Journal of Medicine does not review all books sent by publishers, although information about new books received is printed elsewhere in the journal as space permits. Prices quoted are those given by the publishers.*

### Clinical Imaging—An Introduction to the Role of Imaging in Clinical Practice

Edited by Matthew Freedman, MD, Associate Professor of Diagnostic Radiology, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Associate Professor of Diagnostic Radiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; and Associate Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore. Churchill Livingstone Inc, 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1988. 589 pages, \$45.

This book is intended for use as the text in a three- to five-week radiology clinical clerkship course. The text begins with a chapter that discusses methods for analyzing imaging studies. In chapters 2 through 6 methods used for imaging the body are discussed. Chapters 7 through 62 cover the clinical applications of the imaging methods, divided by anatomic region, and the final chapter outlines medical economics and the effect of diagnostic imaging on the cost of health care.

The book is printed on good quality, 8½ × 11 paper with a large print size. Many pages are blank or have only a few lines of print.

Although the image quality of some of the illustrations is excellent, that is, unfortunately, not a uniform characteristic of the text. Many of the chest images, for example, are reproduced too dark, so that pulmonary vessels are not distinct. Most of the ultrasound and computed tomographic images are not of the high quality that is obtainable with state-of-the-art technology. Very few magnetic resonance (MR) images are included, with only a few MR images of the brain or spinal cord, areas in which MR has revolutionized our diagnostic ability. When MR images are shown, there is not an explanation of T1 and T2 relaxation values, something a medical student might be expected to know. Some of the captions of the illustrations are inadequate in that they fail to give the diagnosis or they refer the reader to the text. There are no color illustrations of Doppler or of gross or microscopic pathology for correlation, as there are in Lucy Squires's textbook for medical students. Several important entities are not discussed at all or are mentioned only in passing: Wilms's tumor, neuroblastoma, osteogenic sarcoma, leukemia, congenital heart disease, and congenital dislocation of the hip.

Aside from these deficiencies, however, there is much in the book to make it valuable to medical students. Specifically, I found the organization of each chapter to be attractive and practical. The key concepts are presented, the objectives are enumerated, the entity is discussed and illustrated, the findings are summarized, review questions are provided, a vocabulary of new words is listed, and, finally, there are suggestions for further reading.

I think that medical students will find that this book is a very palatable introduction to clinical radiology. The interested student will use this book as a stepping stone to read, in depth, other current radiology textbooks oriented either toward organ systems or new imaging technologies.

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